



CALPEEK

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OAKLAND MAYOR'S RACE: HARRIS VS. DANG.

Editor's note: It now has been two full months since the June 7th primary in Oakland and incumbent Mayor Elihu Harris finds himself in what could be a very tight battle with prominent Asian businessman Ted Dang, the surprise 2nd place finisher. Here is CALPEEK's update & analysis...

...About six weeks prior to the June 7th election, a poll showed Dang in single digits at 9%, with Harris at 41% and Alameda Co. Sup. Mary King at 29%. But in six weeks Dang not only surged past King, but finished just 8 points behind Harris, who ended up getting 37.2% of the vote. King was stunned, as were political insiders...

...How did Dang pull this off? Dang's message was aimed not only at Harris, but at King too. It was an *anti-incumbency theme*, which attacked all politicians. Dang the *outsider* vs. Harris & King the *insiders*...

...Now that the dust has settled, Dang is making overtures to King, as well as to other prominent Black leaders (former Sup. Warren Widner, former Councilwoman Aleta Cannon and Black Muslim Minister Yusef Bay), in a effort to expand his coalition of Whites, Hispanics and Asians. Whether Dang is successful remains to be seen, but some sources think he will eventually win King and other Blacks to his side...

...And while other challengers might have taken the summer off, Dang instead has been campaigning like there was no tomorrow. He has published a 64-page book called "Action Plan for Oakland," in which he outlines what he would do to reduce crime, homelessness and increase jobs. Harris has ridiculed this effort, especially Dang's plan to hire 100 new cops, but the fact is that in 4 years (on Elihu's watch) there have been 720 murders in a city half the size of San Francisco...

...FYI: Alameda Co. Sup. Don Perata has now signed on to the Harris campaign, but in what capacity is not clear. He's still a member of the Alameda Co. Bd. of Supes. and that's considered a full-time job. Consultant Richie Ross was Harris's chief adviser in the primary, while consultant Richard Schlackman continues to handle Dang's campaign. Stay tuned...

HEALTH CARE DEBATE HEATS UP IN U.S. & CALIF.

Editor's note: With the introduction a few days ago of two new health care plans in the Congress, it's time for an update on Prop. 186 --- the Calif. single-payer health care initiative...

...According to the latest Field Poll, released July 28, only 38% of those voters who were contacted for this survey were aware of Prop. 186. 62% had not seen or heard anything about it. Of the 38% who are aware of Prop. 186, 13% are inclined to vote YES and 16% are leaning NO, with 9% undecided. *After a summary of 186 was read*, YES got 36%, NO received 42% and 22% were undecided...

...The YES side, known as *Californians for Health Security*, has hired veteran consultant Bill Zimmerman, no stranger when it comes to taking on the **insurance industry**. In 1988, Zimmerman's firm handled Prop. 103, the auto insurance reform measure which was approved by voters despite the fact that the insurance industry spent about \$60 million in an effort to defeat 103 and several other reform measures. Also on the YES team is consultant Steve Hopcraft, who will handle news media relations...

...While the Calif. Chamber of Commerce and Calif. Taxpayers Assn. are the up-front, visible opponents leading the charge, make no mistake it's the health insurance industry (Health Insurance Assn. of America)

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which has the most to lose if 186 should pass. Zimmerman says there's no telling how much insurers will end up spending to protect their multi-billion dollar industry in Calif. \$10-20 million could easily be spent, but so far there's little evidence of insurer money. In other words, "Harry & Louise" may be spending lots of time in Calif. this fall. For the uninformed, "Harry & Louise" are the make-believe TV couple that bashed the living daylight out of the Clinton health care plan. H&L were created by Goddard* Claussen/First Tuesday for the HIAA, and Goddard Claussen are the consultants who will run the NO on 186 campaign...

...FYI: there's little doubt that 186 will also figure into battle shaping up between Demo Art Torres and GOPer Chuck Quackenbush for insurance commissioner. Stay tuned...

U.S. SENATE RACE: HUFFINGTON'S VOTING RECORD ON ABORTION IS ASSAILED BY CARAL AND NWPC.

Editor's note: In CALPEEK's July 18th issue, we wrote an analysis about U.S. Rep. Michael Huffington's 1993 record on this hot topic. Huffington was NOT pleased with our analysis and wrote a letter so stating. On July 29th, the CA Abortion & Reproductive Rights Action League (CARAL) and the Nat'l Women's Political Caucus (NWPC) held a news conference where they blasted the congressman's record on choice. Here is our update & analysis...

...CARAL/NWPC analyzed the total record of Huffington on this issue covering 1993-94 in the 103rd Congress: 15 actions --- 14 votes and 1 request to become a co-sponsor of a major pro-choice bill. Included are votes on *procedures*, *amendments*, as well as *final votes* on specific bills. Of the 15 actions, CARAL/NWPC noted Huffington was pro-choice 5 times and was pro-life 10 times...

...On his 1992 congressional campaign letterhead, Huffington said he'd vote for FOCA, the Freedom of Choice Act (HR25). CALPEEK said Huffington voted against FOCA, but the bill has not yet come up for a vote. CARAL/NWPC correctly pointed out that Huffington, for whatever reasons, has refused to become a co-sponsor (as of 6/29/94)...

...On the issues of fetal tissue research, parental consent and Title X funding, Huffington voted pro-choice.

But at the same time during 1993, he also voted for the Hyde Amendment(twice), against DC local abortion funding and for two anti-choice amendments to the Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances Act (11/18/93), this according to CARAL. Now we come to 1994 --- and here Huffington voted for the final passage of the clinic entrances act on 5/5/94. But he also had 3 procedural votes in 1994 on that same bill which were considered anti-choice by CARAL/NWPC...

...Bottomline: Huffington's record on abortion is *mixed* --- in other words, he's voted on both side of this issue. And while Huffington still insists he's pro-choice, those who disagree quote that old Texas proverb, "*The dog won't hunt.*" Stay tuned...

NEW FIELD POLL FOR DOWN-BALLOT RACES.

Editor's note: The Field Poll has released some new survey numbers for the down-ballot races such as LG, AG, SOS, Treasurer, Controller, IC and Supt. of Public Instruction. The poll was conducted between July 12-17 among 609 registered voters. Next to the candidate's name is their party and their statewide name ID. To the right are the current poll numbers...

Lt. Governor

Gray Davis(D - 71%)	49%
Cathie Wright(R - 19%)	19%
Undecided	32%

Attorney General

Dan Lungren(R - 55%)	35%
Tom Umberg(D - 19%)	25%
Undecided	40%

Secretary of State

Tony Miller(D - 20%)	26%
Bill Jones(R - 13%)	24%
Undecided	50%

State Treasurer

Matt Fong(R - 34%)	36%
Phil Angelides(D - 12%)	25%
Undecided	39%

State Controller

Kathleen Connell(D - 19%)	31%
Tom McClintock(R - 15%)	26%
Undecided	43%

Insurance Commissioner

Art Torres(D - 40%)	34%
Chuck Quackenbush(R - 25%)	30%
Undecided	36%

Supt. of Public Instruction

Maureen DiMarco (34%)	21%
Delaine Eastin (15%)	21%
Undecided	58%

...With the exception of the LG's race, where Davis is mashing Wright by 30 points, the other races are fairly close. The **biggest surprise** is the AG's race where insiders thought incumbent AG Dan Lungren would be ahead by at least 15-20 points. Umberg is surprisingly close and this might have an impact in terms of aiding Umberg with *fundraising*. Stay tuned...

U.S. HOUSE RACES: FALL ELECTION BATTLES.

Editor's note: Here is CALPEEK's update on various U.S. House races...

● **19th C.D.** - This is the Central Valley district represented by veteran Demo U.S. Rep. Richard Lehman. Republicans want this seat and have again targeted Lehman. The district has a 45.88% Demo vs. 43.23% GOP registration, meaning it leans Republican. Of all the incumbents who faced *reapportionment* in 1992, Lehman really got screwed --- considering that in 1991 his district had about a 58% Demo registration. In 1992, Lehman survived a very tough race against Tal Cloud and won by just 1,100 votes. In 1994, Lehman will face GOP primary winner George Radanovich, who upset Fresno Co. GOP Central Cmt. chairman Michael Der Manouel Jr. Radanovich lists himself as a farmer/small businessman, but he was a Mariposa Co. Supervisor. Because of his tight race in 1992, Lehman has been visiting the district almost every weekend. And he has hired veteran consultant Darry Sragow, along with media consultant Dalton Moore and the polling firm of Fairbanks, Maslin Maullin. Radanovich has Powell & Weber handling media, with Public Opinion Strategies doing polling. Sources report that Lehman's numbers are good; money is not a problem; and he has high & favorable name ID. In addition, he's good on ag & water issues and he supported NAFTA. But it is also true that Pres. Bill Clinton's numbers are not good in this area and that's a big problem...

● **11th C.D.** - This Stockton/Central Valley district should have gone Democratic in 1992, but the Demos had to make do with two-time losing candidate Patti Garamendi, who spent about \$300,000 more than her GOP challenger and still lost this then 51.6% Demo district to Tracy Councilman Richard Pombo. Since his upset election, Pombo has worked the 11th C.D. very hard and during this time Demo registration has slipped to 49.49%, while GOP registration has jumped from 38.1% in 1992 to 40.08% in May of 1994. Pombo is once again in the capable hands of consultant Wayne Johnson. Don't know for sure if this was totally Johnson's idea, but Pombo's ballot designation doesn't say "Member of Congress" or "U.S. House of Representatives." Pombo's designation is *rancher/small businessman*. Pombo's soft name ID is above 90% and as of July 15 had \$136,159 cash-on-hand. He raised \$459,768. Pombo's Demo opponent is Randy Perry, a lobbyist for PORAC (Peace Officers Research Assn. of Calif.). In other words, Perry is the guy that the Nat'l Assn. of Police Organizations(NAPO) will be backing to the hilt. Perry also is supported by CTA/CFT, the AFL-CIO, COPS and the CA Assn. of Highway Patrolmen. Perry has hired a veteran team of consultants, including the Campaign Performance Group, Hank Sheinkopf and Fairbank Maslin Maullin. While this is a very savvy team, the battle is uphill all the way. Polling for Pombo by Meta Information Services in early July shows that Pombo enjoys 58.8% vs. 15.6% lead over Perry (when all the "lean" data is added in). The key is money and Perry's team is very much aware that if he doesn't raise the money, all the talk is worthless. As of July 15, Perry had raised \$68,276 and had \$5,033 cash on hand. He'll need to raise at least \$450,000 to have any chance...

● **44th C.D.** - In this battle in Riverside Co. between former Demo Assemblyman Steve Clute and former Palm Springs Mayor Sonny Bono, an unnamed source told CALPEEK, "I can't wait for the debates." Neither can we, babe, because both candidates have been know to *open mouth, insert foot*. FYI: About a month ago Bono released a poll showing him leading Clute by a 48% to 31% margin. Now Clute has released a survey by his pollster (Fairbank Maslin Maullin) showing the race to be neck-and-neck, with Clute at 39% and Bono at 38%. Independent candidate Donald Cochran got 7% and the rest were undecided. Stay tuned...

29th S.D. SPECIAL: 8 FILE PAPERS FOR SEPT. 13 RACE

Editor's note: Gov. Pete Wilson has set Sept. 13th for a special election to fill out the unexpired terms of Frank Hill(R), who resigned after being convicted on political corruption charges. Here is CALPEEK's update on this special...

...There are six(6) Republicans, 1 Demo, a libertarian and a Green Party candidate who turned in papers on Aug. 1st. The six GOPers include Assemblymembers Dick Mountjoy and Paul Horcher; Diamond Bar Councilman Gary Miller; Edward Ortell; Howard Hurd and Khalil Khalil. The serious GOPers are the first three. The lone Demo is Sandy Hester. Realistically, Demos will have tough time winning this seat because registration strongly favors the GOP --- 41.44% Demo vs. 45.62% GOP. And in fact there are those in Sacto who believe that the Senate Demo Leadership will be working behind the scene to help moderate Horcher...

...This special promises to be one of the more costly races (Miller has already pumped in \$350,000 of his own money) and it may qualify as one of the *meanest and nastiest campaigns in a long time*. There is *no love lost* between Horcher and Mountjoy nor between Horcher and Miller. In his July 19 announcement, Horcher said, "As most of you are aware, in this election there will be some issues but far more character assassination." Horcher then proceeded to trash both Miller and Mountjoy. With regard to Miller, Horcher said, "*I do not feel he is fit to serve.*"...

...Want to see how these three square off in a debate? They will debate at the San Gabriel Valley chpt. of the CA Lincoln Club, 7:30 a.m. breakfast, Aug. 19, Industry Hills Sheraton. RSVPs to Natalie Blanning at (818)249-4205. Wear old clothes because food & fur could fly. Stay tuned...

DOG DAYS OF SUMMER: POLITICAL SHORT TAKES.

Editor's note: Here are a few political items worth noting...

● **Full Metal Jacket** - When the CA Legislature returns to work Aug. 8th, Gov. Pete Wilson is scheduled to join a law & order rally on the Capitol steps, pushing for more and tougher crime laws. On Aug. 9th the Assembly Public Safety Cmt. is due to take up several crime bills that Wilson wants. But sources say

Demo Assemblyman Mike Gotch is planning a little surprise. On some of the bills, Gotch may introduce some tough gun control amendments. What sort of amendments? A magazine/clip bill (no more than 10 bullets); generic descriptions of assault weapons; and perhaps a State ban on illegal immigrants possessing guns (it's already outlawed under U.S. law). Question: what will Republicans do when these amendments are added???

● **DAs Who Back Pete** - 33 CA County DAs have endorsed Gov. Pete Wilson for reelection. Some of the better known DAs include Michael Capizzi of Orange, Michael Bradbury of Ventura, George Kennedy of Santa Clara, Ed Jagels of Kern, Tom Sneddon Jr. of Santa Barbara, Don Stahl of Stanislaus, Grover Trask of Riverside, Gary Yancey of Contra Costa and Ed Hunt of Fresno. At least 2 of the 33 DAs are Demos: Art Danner III of Santa Cruz and retiring Sonoma Co. DA Gene Tunney. Stay tuned...

DANIEL ELLSBERG TO ADDRESS WOMEN FOR

Daniel Ellsberg of Pentagon Paper fame, will discuss the danger of nuclear proliferation at a meeting hosted by Women For, 7:30 p.m., Aug. 16, University Synagogue, West L.A. For info (310)657-7411...

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